

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A brush seal device in which splitting surfaces of a plurality of split-body parts are combined with one another and which is mounted to one of opposed component members so as to seal a gap between said component members, comprising:

a brush seal formed in a wall shape in the longitudinal direction of a fixture portion which is fixed at one end thereof;

said split-body parts which hold said brush seal and each of which has connecting portions that are split and that extend along said splitting surfaces,

wherein each of said splitting surfaces is composed of splitting direction-extending surfaces that extend in such a direction as to split said split-body parts and a longitudinal surface that extends in the longitudinal direction of said split-body parts and that forms a step interposed between said splitting direction-extending surfaces,

wherein said splitting surfaces are formed at different circumferential positions on both axial sides of the brush seal, and

wherein each of said splitting direction-extending surfaces has shutoff means for sealing a gap between said splitting direction-extending surfaces that are combined with each other.

2. (Previously Amended) The brush seal device according to claim 1, wherein said shutoff means has longitudinal contact surfaces formed in a step structure of said splitting direction-extending surfaces and is constructed in a joining portion where said contact surfaces are joined with each other.

3. (Original) The brush seal device according to claim 2, wherein said shutoff means has a sealing plate made from a super-elastic alloy material on said contact surfaces.

4. (Original) The brush seal device according to claim 1, wherein said shutoff means is constructed of an elastic sealing plate that extends across and shuts off the gap between opposed faces of said splitting direction-extending surfaces.

5. (Previously Presented) The brush seal device according to claim 1, wherein said shutoff means is constructed of an elastically deformable plate sealing portion that is disposed between opposed faces of said splitting direction-extending surfaces so as to shut off the gap therebetween and that is joined with said opposed faces.

6. (Currently Amended) A brush seal device in which splitting surfaces of a plurality of split-body parts are combined with one another and which is mounted to one of opposed component members so as to seal a gap between said component members, comprising:

a brush seal formed in a wall shape;

said split-body parts which hold said brush seal and each of which has connecting portions that are split and that extend along said splitting surfaces,

wherein each of said splitting surfaces has not only axial step but also radial step,

said splitting surfaces are formed at different circumferential positions on both axial sides of the brush seal,

said split-body parts are connected to one another so as to make a circumferential clearance between the splitting surfaces of the connected split-body parts and

said radial step is formed along a radial way of the circumferential clearance in order that the circumferential clearance is interrupted by the radial step.

7. (Currently Amended) A brush seal device in which splitting surfaces of a plurality of split-body parts are combined with one another and which is mounted to one of opposed component members so as to seal a gap between said component members, comprising:

a brush seal formed in a wall shape;

said split-body parts which hold said brush seal and each of which has connecting portions that are split and that extend along said splitting surfaces,

wherein each of said splitting surfaces has an axial step and sealing means are disposed between opposed faces of splitting direction-extending surfaces of said splitting surfaces, and

wherein said splitting surfaces are formed at different circumferential positions on both axial sides of the brush seal.

8. (Previously Presented) The brush seal device according to claim 6, wherein the radial step is formed at a position between a tip end and base end of a brush of the brush seal.

9. (Currently Amended) The brush seal device according to claim 6, wherein the radial step and the axial step are formed at only one axial side of the brush seal.

10. (Previously Presented) The brush seal device according to claim 6, wherein the different circumferential positions comprise different radial planes.